

GET TO KNOW
GOD NOW.
DO NOT DELAY TILL
YOU
GET TO HEAVEN'S
GATES.

HEAVEN'S GATE

Jesus tells two parables about someone asking a favour at a late hour. They teach us a lot.

Maybe you remember the first one, which Jesus told two weeks ago. He said there was a man knocking on a friend's door at midnight, wanting to borrow some bread. The friend yelled back, "Do not bother me; the door has already been locked and my children and I are already in bed. I cannot get up to give you anything." But he does. Jesus says:

'I tell you, if he does not get up to give him the loaves because of their friendship, he will get up to give him whatever he needs because of his persistence.' Jesus interpreted as follows:

'I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.'

Doesn't it feel good knowing that constant prayer will get the door opened? Well, hold back that feeling for a while. Look at this Sunday's Gospel. Here again someone is knocking on the door late at night, but receives nothing. The master of the house says,

'I do not know where you are from.'

The one(s) knocking reply: "But we ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets."

Look carefully at those words: The askers are mere casual acquaintances, if that. Something like this: we liked what you did, and now we want more!

The master says, 'I do not know where you are from. Depart from me, all you evildoers!'

Ouch. What about "ask and you shall receive"? As if to rub it in, Jesus says, "There will be wailing and grinding of teeth when you see the saved ones— Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets— looking down from heaven while you were being cast out!"

What is going on here? Is Jesus just in a bad mood? We know that he is "making his way to Jerusalem" when he tells this parable, walking straight into the crucifixion, and maybe he is just anxious.

Yet notice that, in his prior parable, even though the owner opens the door just to get the noise stopped, the interruption was being caused by a friend—even if a rude one—who would not stop asking for what he needed. That parable told us to keep asking God, our friend, for what we need, even though he may be a bit grumpy.

But in the parable for this Sunday, the people outside are not friends and in fact they have no relationship at all to the man in the house. The parable states that they knew about him only from parties and from the streets. They heard him preaching, but did nothing. They did not come to his house at a reasonable time and begin a friendship. No amount of midnight knocking will make up for it.

What is our lesson? That God keeps the door open long beyond what we would expect, all the way to the end. But if we are too busy partying and dancing, then finally there is nothing he can do. He has to accept our decision to stay outside.

The message? *Get to know God now. Do not delay till you get to heaven's gates and have nothing to show for yourself.*



TODAY IS NATIONAL DAY FOR MIGRANTS & REFUGEES

‘IT’S NOT JUST ABOUT MIGRANTS’

The Church has been celebrating the World Day of Migrants and Refugees since 1914. It is always an occasion to express concern for many different vulnerable people on the move; to pray for the challenges and increase awareness about the opportunities that migration offers.

For 2019, Pope Francis has chosen the theme “It is not just about migrants” to show up our blind-spots and make sure no one remains excluded from society, whether a long-time resident or someone newly-arrived.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION CORNER

“For behold, some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last.” -Luke 13:30

Our standards in society are different from God’s standards. We often rank people by what they have, how powerful they are, or how successful they are. Jesus reminds us that God will not judge us by the same earthly standards. When God asks you, “ what have you done with the gifts I have given you?” How will you respond?

THE JOURNEY CATHOLIC RADIO PROGRAM – AIRS 1 September 2019

Go to WWW.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au and to ensure that you never miss a show it can be sent to you each week as a podcast via email – for free. Share the sage words.



We would like to thank everyone for your generosity and support to the following appeal:

- Catholic Mission
- Catholic Care
- Mary Mackillop

FATHER’S DAY APPEAL 2019
01 September

Next weekend we will have a special collection in support of the Father’s Day appeal. The appeal goes to the care of retired and sick priests by providing suitable accommodation, medical assistance and a comfortable standard of living for them.

LIBRARY

Behind the St Vincent piety stall in the foyer are books for adults and children. There are religious readings and other novel topics. Take a book—read and enjoy.

Return and take another.



ROSTERS: 6:00PM 9:30AM

EUCHARIST MINISTERS

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|------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| ◆This Week | P. Naughtin S. Chen H. Grealy | P. Kawaleski D. Hickman A. Yee |
| ◆Next week | S. Samarasundera C. Buchan M. Italiano | A. Benedict C. L.Tay L. Cigana |

PROCLAIMERS

| | | |
|---------------|-----------|--------------|
| ◆This Week C: | R. Grealy | Sr Betty |
| P: | P. D’Cruz | T. Fernandes |
| ◆Next week C: | P. Kelly | A. Lee |
| P: | H. Lobo | P.O’Reilly |

COUNTERS

This Week: Adrian Farrell
Next Week: Mary Choy / Eileen Tam

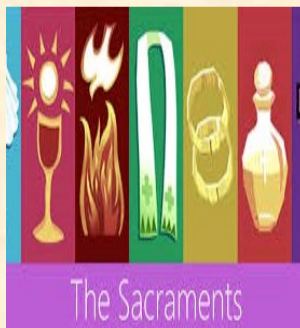
PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- Mary King, Frank Smith, Leonor Baylon, Peter Sullivan, Peter Farrelly,
- Rose Howe, Catherine Bradley, John Bailey, Dirk Senn, Luigi Cigana,
- Vicki Gallacher, Walter Thompson, Catherine Johnson, Luigi Lazzari, Elizabeth Rose Daghish.



SACRAMENTS: Contact Parish office for Enquiries & Arrangement

- ◆ **Baptism:** 1st Sunday of the Month (9:30 AM Mass)
- ◆ **Reconciliation**
- ◆ **Marriage**
- ◆ **Anointing of the Sick**
- ◆ **Funerals**



MASS TIMES:

- ◆ Saturday: 6:00 PM
- ◆ Sunday: 9:30 AM
- ◆ Indian Mass: 12:00 NN every 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month
- ◆ Mass in Vietnamese : 5:00 PM (All Sundays)
- ◆ Adoration 7:30 PM every 1st Friday of the month
- VIETNAMESE ENQUIRIES: AHN LOC 0434 239 212 or ANH TOAN 0422 295 115.**

WEEKDAYS:

- ◆ 2nd Tuesday of the month, 10:30am (Strathdon)
- ◆ 4th Tuesday of the month, 10:30 am (Livingstone)
- ◆ Wednesday & Thursday, 9:15 am
- ◆ 1st Wednesday of the month, 10:00 am, Anointing Mass
- ◆ Every Friday, 10:00 am

2019 FIRST EUCHARIST, RECONCILIATION & CONFIRMATION

- ◆ For children attending St. Timothy’s school, preparation for these three sacraments is through the school.
- ◆ For children not attending St. Timothy’s school, preparation and enrollment is through the Parish Office every Tuesday-Thursday: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and Friday: 1:00 to 5:00 PM



CARDINAL PELL CONSIDERS HIGH COURT CHALLENGE

Cardinal George Pell may launch a High Court challenge to his child sexual abuse convictions after the Victorian Court of Appeal yesterday rejected his bid for freedom. Source: *The Australian*.

The legal team for the cardinal is examining whether there are grounds for appealing against the decision in the High Court, their last chance to stop Cardinal Pell serving a minimum three years and eight months in jail.

Two senior judges believed the evidence of Cardinal Pell's sole surviving victim, whom a jury found was sexually assaulted in a sacristy at St Patrick's Cathedral in 1996 and again at the cathedral the next year while a choirboy.

The third appeal judge, Mark Weinberg, disagreed, believing Cardinal Pell should have been acquitted of all charges. Justice Weinberg couldn't exclude the possibility that some of what the man, now in his 30s, had said was concocted.

The Vatican offered qualified support for Cardinal Pell, declaring late yesterday that it would review its position on Australia's most senior Catholic once all avenues of appeal were exhausted.

Sydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP said the judges' split decision was "consistent with the differing views of the juries in the first and second trials, as well as the divided opinion amongst legal commentators and the general public. Reasonable people have taken different views and I urge everyone to maintain calm and civility."

Melbourne Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli offered prayers for Cardinal Pell's accuser. "I humbly acknowledge it has been a challenging time for him, and I stand ready to offer pastoral and spiritual help, should he seek it," he said.

"In Christian charity, I will ensure that Cardinal Pell is provided pastoral and spiritual support while he serves the remainder of his sentence, according to the teaching and example of Jesus to visit those in prison."

SELF INTEREST AND HYPOCRACY DESTROY THE CHURCH: POPE

Pope Francis decried hypocrisy and self-interest, saying that Christian community should always be characterised by generosity and solidarity. Source: *CNA*.

"A life set only on profiting and taking advantage of situations at the expense of others inevitably causes interior death," Pope Francis. Francis said he asks the Lord to "pour over us His Spirit of tenderness, which overcomes all hypocrisy and puts into circulation that truth which nourishes Christian solidarity."

He said solidarity is "the inalienable expression of the nature of the Church," which he called the "tender mother of all, especially the poorest."

"Being members of the body of Christ makes believers co-responsible for each other." "Among Christians we cannot say: 'Poor person, he has a problem at home, he is going through this family difficulty'. But, I must pray. 'This is being a Christian,'" Francis explained. "Whenever we see someone suffering we must pray," he said.

The Pope stressed the importance of concrete acts of generosity in the life of a Christian, particularly with one's time and money.

"The sign that your heart has converted is when conversion reaches your pockets," he said.

INCREASE NEWSTART PAYMENT FOR ALL RECIPIENTS: VINNIES

St Vincent de Paul Society National Council of Australia chief Toby O'Connor reiterated the group's support for an increase of \$75 for all recipients of Newstart.

Emphasising the society's position following comments published in *The Australian* last Monday, Mr O'Connor said while people aged over 55 face particular challenges to finding work in a tight job market, no particular group of unemployed people was more or less vulnerable than another.

"Anybody living on Newstart faces overwhelming challenges including to secure housing, affordable energy and basic weekly grocery bills. And the longer people are on Newstart, the more entrenched their poverty becomes," Mr O'Connor said. "Our commitment to human dignity means we are concerned for the wellbeing of all people who rely on Newstart to live."

Mr O'Connor said a growing number of Coalition MPs have raised concerns about the inadequacy of the payment. "Perhaps this is a signal that there is a willingness to empathise not only with older unemployed people, as we have seen in recent weeks, but with all recipients of Newstart."

ANTI DISCRIMINATION LAW SHOULD BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER

Prime Minister Scott Morrison says he wants religious discrimination laws to unite Australians, not be divisive. Source: *9news.com.au*.

Cabinet ministers approved the proposed legislation at a meeting and the bill will be taken to the coalition party room when parliament returns next month.

"This is an issue that I think should be bringing Australians together, not one that does the opposite, and I look forward to completing that process," Mr Morrison told reporters yesterday. He said there was still "a way to go" in finalising the wording of the laws. Some faith groups, whose leaders met with Mr Morrison earlier this month, are looking for further legislative changes.

The laws could be passed by the end of the year, but they won't deal with the issue of how schools deal with gay staff and students.

The Australian Law Reform Commission is separately looking at religious exemptions to discrimination laws, with a report due in early 2020. It wants to protect the right of religious institutions to conduct their affairs in a way consistent with their religious ethos.

Labor says it will support modest changes to anti-discrimination laws to protect people of faith, but not broad-ranging reforms.

RELIGIOUS SITES OFFER REFUGE TO PEOPLE FLEEING FIGHTING

People have fled their homes and taken refuge at religious sites as renewed fighting erupted in Myanmar's Shan state.

Caritas Myanmar, said people started to flee their homes on Saturday, taking refuge at the church. "We are monitoring the situation to respond to the relief works but the blockage of routes has been our main challenge so far." The government says the recent attacks by rebels have impacted upon the country's peace process but the door remains open for talks.

INTRODUCTION TO MASS:

To be Christian is more than a name; more than a title. If we put our hand up and claim the title of Christian, then there are consequences that flow from that. Those who are disillusioned by religion frequently name hypocrisy as the major reason for their disillusionment. Sometimes, that's an easy out. We can't all live like Jesus all of the time. However, we are called to take Jesus as our model of the Christian life and to use his example as a guiding beacon. To call ourselves Christian is to try to be Christ-like in all our actions.

PENITENTIAL RITE:

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| Lord Jesus, you came to gather nations of every language . | Lord, have mercy: Lord, have mercy. |
| Lord Jesus, you strengthen us and make us holy. | Christ, have mercy: Christ, have mercy. |
| Lord Jesus, you call us to your eucharistic feast. | Lord, have mercy: Lord, have mercy. |

FIRST READING: *Isaiah 66:18-21*

“From East to West My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.” Ironclad as the statement is, there no automatic right to gain entry to God's kingdom.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM :

Response: Go out to all the world; and tell the Good News.

1. O praise the Lord, all you nations, acclaim him all you peoples! **(R.)**
2. Strong is his love for us; he is faithful for ever. **(R.)**



SECOND READING: *Hebrew 12: 5-7*

The community is undergoing difficulty, perhaps even persecution. Rather than see suffering and difficulties as a sign of God's absence, the believer is exhorted to receive these as signs of God's love. The letter exhorts the congregation to keep faith.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia! alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL : *Luke 13: 22-30*

The message of salvation is not reserved exclusively for the Jews, but is for all people; Jew and Gentile alike. Jesus tells his audience that people who are faithful to his message, even though they may be Gentile, will gain salvation before anyone who thinks they deserve it because of their birth or title.

*Next 22nd Sunday Ord Time :
1st Read Sirach 3:17-20, 28-29; 2nd Read Hebrew 12: 18-19;
Gospel Luke 14: 1, 7-14*